

Message Text

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44
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 IO-10

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W
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P R 051653Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1958
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO
SUBJ: VICTOR ALVES ADDRESSES DIPLOMATIC ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY: MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO ALVES PRESENTED FRANK SPEECH ASSESSING POLITICAL SCENE. EXPLAINED REASONS FOR INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) AND COMMENTED ON PORTUGAL'S FOREIGN RELATIONS AND TIMOR. END SUMMARY

1. MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO VICTOR ALVES SPOKE MARCH 5 TO LISBON'S DIPLOMATIC ASSOCIATION. FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR POINTS OF

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BRIEF OPENING ADDRESS: INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ARMED FORCES

MOVEMENT (AFM) REQUIRED BY CIRCUMSTANCES NOT FORESEEN WHEN AFM ORIGINALLY PROJECTED ITS RETURN TO BARRACKS AT END OF 1975.
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY HAS NOT PROGRESSED AT EXPECTED RATE.

2. THREE FACTORS MAKE INSTITUTIONALIZATION NECESSARY. FIRST, THE POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE REQUESTED IT. (IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM FLOOR, ALVES STATED ALL MAJOR PARTIES REQUESTED INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE AFM AS THEY RECOGNIZE THEIR PRESENT INABILITY TO GOVERN THROUGH POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM WITHOUT SUPPORT OF AFM.) CONVERSATION WITH PARTIES GOING WELL WITH CONSENSUS ON ALL MAJOR POINTS AND ONLY MINOR DISAGREEMENT. AFM EXPECTS TO OBTAIN UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONALIZATION PLAN, AS WELL AS OTHER POINTS, PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN MARCH 20.

3. SECOND REASON FOR INSTITUTIONALIZATION IS TO INSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF THREE YEAR ECONOMIC PLAN, WHICH DISTINCT FROM PLATFORMS OF ANY POLITICAL PARTY. THIRD REASON IS TO CONTINUE DECOLONIALIZATION PROGRAM.

4. AVLES DESCRIBED INSTITUTIONALIZATION AS GIVEN AFM POWERS SIMILAR TO THOSE CURRENTLY HELD BY COUNCIL OF STATE. HE STRESSED THAT INSTITUTIONALIZATION WOULD BE FOR THREE OR FIVE YEAR PERIOD ONLY AND WOULD BE SELF-TERMINATING. FOR EXAMPLE, CONSTITUTION MAY CARRY TRANSITORY PROVISION WHEREBY AFM GRANTED SPECIFIC POWERS FOR LIMITED PERIOD AND PROVIDING FOR GRADUAL TRANSITION OF THESE POWERS FROM AFM TO ELECTED GOVERNMENT. ALVES STATED THAT GOP EXPECTED TO HOLD THREE ELECTIONS IN 1975, I.E., CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS APRIL 12, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER, AND CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS ABOUT END OF YEAR.

5. ALVES STATED THAT AFM CONSIDERED ISSUE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF UNITARY LABOR UNION MOVEMENT STRICTLY ON PRAGMATIC RATHER THAN IDEOLOGICAL OR ON PARTISAN GROUNDS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT DECREE-LAW (WHICH NOT YET PROMULGATED) HAS PROVISION REQUIRING MANDATORY REVIEW AFTER ONE YEAR.

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ASKING HOW TO DEFINE PORTUGAL'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSITION IN RELATION TO THIRD WORLD, AVLES POINTED OUT PORTUGAL'S GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IS WESTERN "WHICH WE CAN'T CHANGE," AND 80 PERCENT OF TRADE IS WITH WEST "WHICH WE CAN'T CHANGE IN ONE YEAR." STRESSED DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND STATED THAT IN FUTURE PORTUGAL WISHES TO OPEN NEW DOORS WITHOUT CLOSING OLD ONES.

7. ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS REASON FOR EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE

TIVEN TO SIGNING OF U.S. AID AGREEMENT, ALVES NOTED THAT PORTUGAL HAD BEEN GIVEN A LOT OF WORDS BUT LITTLE ASSISTANCE. SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD BEEN CRITICIZED FOR HOLDING BACK ON AID WHILE EVERY OTHER COUNTRY WAS ALSO HOLDING BACK.(HE ADDED THAT, PERSONALLY, IN SIMILAR SITUATION HE MIGHT HAVE DONE THE SAME). WHILE U.S. AID PACKAGE WAS NOT LARGE, IT IS IN FACT THE FIRST CONCRETE ASSISTANCE. AMPLE PUBLICITY GIVEN WAS PERHAPS TO ENCOURAGE OTHER TO DO LIKEWISE.

8. COUNSELOR OF INDONESIA EMBASSY ASKED WHETER DECOLONIALIZATION OF TIMOR (PUT IN TERMS OF "YOUR TWO ASIAN COLONIES") WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN SAME MANNER AS AFRICAN COLONIES. ALVES RESPONDED THAT EACH TERRITORY DIFFERENT AND BEING HANDLED IN DIFFERENT MANNER. ATTITUDE OF PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT TOWARD TIMOR IS THAT TIMORESE THEMSELVES SHOULD DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE.

9. COMMENT: ALVES CAME ACROSS AS INTELLIGENT AND ARTICULATE INDIVIDUAL GIVN FRANK ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION AS SEEN BY AFM. LEFT FAVORABLE IMPRESSION UPON DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY BY HIS STRAIGHTFORWARD HANDLING OF DIFFICULT QUESTIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, SPEECHES, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON01229
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750077-0433
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750381/aaaacuuq.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VICTOR ALVES ADDRESSES DIPLOMATIC ASSOCIATION SUMMARY: MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO ALVES PRESENTED FRANK
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, AFM, (ALVES, VICTOR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006